



JONES BEATS MOORE

DEMOCRAT PULLS OFF UPSET IN ALABAMA SENATE RACE

BY KIM CHANDLER AND STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, ALA. • In a stunning victory aided by scandal, Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama’s special Senate election on Tuesday, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed GOP rebel Roy Moore despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations.

It was the first Democratic Senate victory in a quarter-century in Alabama, one of the reddest of red states, and proved anew that party loyalty is anything but sure in the age of Trump. It was a major embarrassment for the president and a fresh wound for the nation’s already di-

DOUG JONES • 49.9%



ROY MOORE • 48.4%



99 percent of precincts reporting

vided Republican Party.

“We have shown not just around the state of Alabama — but we have shown the country the way — that we can be unified,” Jones declared as supporters in a Birmingham ballroom cheered and cried tears of joy. He added, “This entire race has been about dignity and respect.”

Moore, meanwhile, refused to concede late Tuesday and raised the possibility of a recount during a brief appearance at a somber campaign party in Montgomery.

“It’s not over,” Moore said. He added, “We know that God is still in control.”

From the White House, Trump graciously tweeted his congratulations to

See **MOORE** • Page A4

WANT A LIVE TREE? BETTER KNOCK ON WOOD



CHRISTIAN GOODEN • cgooden@post-dispatch.com

Chuckie Kiel shakes the loose needles from a Balsam fir he untied on Saturday to restock the aisles on the Christmas tree lot at Mr. Wizards Frozen Custard & Yogurt on Big Bend Boulevard in Maplewood. Owner Scott Casalone said this year is not unlike many of his previous 12 years selling trees. He has just enough stock to last until Christmas Day.

Mild temps fueled fast sales this Christmas season

BY JANELLE O’DEA
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The first two weekends of Christmas tree shopping season were blockbusters, according to three area Christmas tree lot purveyors.

“We’ve already sold 75 percent of our inventory,” Katie Truitt, a volunteer at the Delta Gamma Center’s Christmas tree lot at 1341 North Rock Hill Road, said Saturday.

Although a Christmas tree shortage is causing scarcity in some parts of the U.S., it didn’t seem to be the driving factor for St. Louis’ early tree-shopping crowd.

Truitt and other volunteers speculated people had come out in droves the two

“This will probably be the last weekend for cut-your-own, for all sizes. Last weekend was just beautiful, so lots of trees went out.”

Jill Tantillo,
vice president at Eckert’s Country Store and Farms, speaking last Saturday

previous weekends because of warmer-than-usual temperatures. Travis Dillon, vice president of Ted Drewes Inc., and Jill Tantillo, vice president at Eckert’s Country Store and Farms, both said they saw similar shopping patterns and credited the mild weather.

Of the three, Eckert’s is the only one with a cut-your-own-tree option. They’ve got plenty of pre-cut trees that came in from other parts of the U.S., Tantillo said, but at the Eckert’s Belleville location, 951 South Green Mount Road, self-cut trees are running out quickly.

“This will probably be the last weekend for cut-your-own, for all sizes,” Tantillo

See **TREES** • Page A7

\$31 million sliced from Stenger’s spending plan

BY JEREMY KOHLER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CLAYTON • The St. Louis County Council on Tuesday gave preliminary approval to a last-minute proposal to slash \$31 million from the county’s \$696 million spending plan for 2018 proposed by County Executive Steve Stenger.

The council voted 6-1 for preliminary approval of the cuts, which were filed in a surprise move by the council chairman, Sam Page, just two hours before the council’s scheduled meeting. A final vote is set for next week.

Page said he believed most county departments had not spent as much in 2017 as they had budgeted. Under the reduced budget, those departments could still be funded at the same level

See **COUNTY** • Page A4

Florissant nursing home loses new Medicare funding

BY BLYTHE BERNHARD
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

A patient at St. Sophia Health and Rehabilitation Center in Florissant pulled out a dialysis catheter and bled to death in September, leading to a suspension of state and federal payments for new residents.

The death marks the second in two years that federal investigators linked to negligence at the nursing home. An 88-year-old woman with Alzheimer’s disease was found dead in a bathtub at St. Sophia last year after being left unsupervised for eight hours.

See **MEDICARE** • Page A7

Messenger: Greitens finally acts to help vets • A2 Road rage attacker charged, still on loose • A4 Trump attacks senator calling for resignation • A9

A worldly Christmas feast

LET'S EAT

CARDS AT THE WINTER MEETINGS • SPORTS

Cards focus on Marlins outfielder **Ozuna**

Orioles may be willing to deal **Machado**

Longoria could be part of deal with the Rays

Tampa tames the Blues

SPORTS

TODAY **56°/30°**
GUSTY AND WARMER

TOMORROW **38°/28°**
CLOUDY AND COOLER

WEATHER **B10**

Slim pickings

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